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10 WORLD AIRPORTS

11 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
12 **CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA-WESTERN DIVISION**

14 SAIF KHORSHED,

15 Plaintiff,

16 v.
17

18 1. LAWA EXECUTIVE
19 DIRECTOR GINA MARIE
LINDSEY

20 2. RODOLFO F. RUIZ

21
22 SPECIFIC DEFENDANTS THAT
23 ARE INVOLVED IN THE
FEDERAL LAW VIOATIONS,

24 Defendants.
25
26
27
28

Case No. CV14-2655 MRW

**DEFENDANT LOS ANGELES
WORLD AIRPORTS' NOTICE OF
MOTION AND MOTION TO
DISMISS PLAINTIFF SAIF
KHORSHED'S SECOND AMENDED
COMPLAINT; MEMORANDUM OF
POINTS AND AUTHORITIES IN
SUPPORT THEREOF**

[Federal Rule of Civil Procedure
12(b)(6)]

*[Filed concurrently with Request for
Judicial Notice; [Proposed] Order]*

Date: December 10, 2014

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Crtr: H

Action Filed: April 8, 2014

FAC Filed: July 1, 2014
SAC Filed: October 27, 2014

TO PLAINTIFF SAIF KHORSHED *IN PROPRIA PERSONA*:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on December 10, 2014, at 9:30 a.m., or as soon thereafter as this matter can be heard in Courtroom H of the above-captioned Court, located at 312 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, California 90012, Defendant Los Angeles World Airports (“LAWA”) will and hereby does move the Court to dismiss Plaintiff Saif Khorshed’s Second Amended Complaint (“SAC”).

This Motion is made pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(6) and applicable case law, because Plaintiff previously asserted virtually identical claims in California State Court, resulting in a judgment against Plaintiff on the merits. Plaintiff is thus barred from bringing the same claims in a new venue, pursuant to the doctrine of *res judicata*. Additionally, the SAC fails to state a claim upon which relief can be granted.

This Motion is based upon this Notice of Motion, the accompanying Memorandum of Points and Authorities, all papers and pleadings on file in this matter, and any evidence and argument the Court may require or allow before the hearing on this matter.

Dated: November 12, 2014

VANDERFORD & RUIZ, LLP

By: /s/ Kristina R. Sherry
Ty S. Vanderford
Rodolfo F. Ruiz
Kristina R. Sherry
Attorneys for Defendant LOS ANGELES
WORLD AIRPORTS

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MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES

I. INTRODUCTION

In May 2012, Plaintiff sued Los Angeles World Airports (“LAWA”) in the Los Angeles Superior Court (“State Action”) alleging retaliation. Plaintiff lost.¹ Plaintiff’s instant Second Amended Complaint (“SAC”) is an attempt to re-plead his State Action in Federal District Court, as well as re-plead allegations appearing in Plaintiff’s earlier pleadings dismissed by this Court.² Thus, Plaintiff’s SAC should be dismissed pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure Rule 12(b)(6), because the SAC (1) pleads claims that were adjudicated in State Court and are thus

¹ Plaintiff sued LAWA in the Los Angeles Superior Court alleging, *inter alia*, discrimination and retaliation. (See State Summons and Compl. filed by Pl. Saif Khorshed (“State Compl.”), attached as **Ex. A** to the concurrently filed Req. for Judicial Notice.) The Superior Court granted LAWA’s dispositive Motion for Summary Adjudication against Plaintiff on August 21, 2013, which ended his case. (See LAWA’s Mot. for Summ. Adjudication (“LAWA’s MSA”); Order Granting Def. Los Angeles World Airports’ Mot. for Summ. Adjudication (“Order Granting LAWA’s MSA”) and Am. Order Granting Def. Los Angeles World Airports’ Mot. for Summ. Adjudication (“Amended Order Granting LAWA’s MSA”), attached as **Exs. B, C and D** to the concurrently filed Req. for Judicial Notice.) The California Court of Appeals dismissed Plaintiff’s appeal of that case. (See Order Dismissing Pl. and Appellant’s Appeal (Order Dismissing Pl.’s Appeal.), attached as **Ex. E** to the concurrently filed Req. for Judicial Notice.) See also **Part III.A.**

² Plaintiff’s original Complaint named as Defendants Gina Marie Lindsey, Executive Director of Los Angeles International Airport, and Rodolfo F. Ruiz, opposing counsel in Plaintiff’s State Action; the Court dismissed this. (See Pl.’s Compl. Against Gina Marie Lindsey and Rodolfo F. Ruiz (“Complaint”) and Order Granting Defs. Gina Marie Lindsey and Rodolfo F. Ruiz’s Mot. to Dismiss (“June 3, 2014 Order”), attached as **Exs. F and G** to the concurrently filed Req. for Judicial Notice.) Plaintiff next filed a First Amended Complaint (“FAC”), which merely added LAWA as a Defendant. (See Pl.’s FAC, attached as **Ex. H** to the concurrently filed Req. for Judicial Notice.) The Court dismissed Plaintiff’s FAC. (See Order Granting Defs. LAWA et al. Mot. to Dismiss (“August 28, 2014 Order”), attached as **Ex. I** to the concurrently filed Req. for Judicial Notice.) See also **Part III.B.**

1 barred under the doctrine of *res judicata*; and/or (2) fails to state a claim against
2 LAWA.

3 **II. STANDARD FOR MOTION TO DISMISS**

4 **A. 12(B)(6) Standard**

5 A motion to dismiss pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(6)
6 “tests the legal sufficiency of the claims asserted in the complaint.” *Neilson v.*
7 *Union Bank of Cal., N.A.*, 290 F. Supp. 2d 1101, 1111 (C.D. Cal. 2003). A
8 defendant may move to dismiss a cause of action if a plaintiff fails to state a claim
9 upon which relief can be granted. *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(b)(6). Such a dismissal
10 will be granted when the plaintiff can allege no set of facts supporting relief. *See*
11 *Guerrero v. Gates*, 357 F.3d 911, 916 (9th Cir. 2004). Although “detailed factual
12 allegations” are not required to survive a Rule 12(b)(6) motion to dismiss, a
13 complaint that “offers ‘labels and conclusions’ or ‘a formulaic recitation of the
14 elements of a cause of action will not do.’” *Ashcroft v. Iqbal*, 556 U.S. 662, 678,
15 129 S. Ct. 1937, 173 L. Ed. 2d 868 (2009) (quoting *Bell Atl. Corp. v. Twombly*, 550
16 U.S. 544, 555, 127 S. Ct. 1955, 167 L. Ed. 2d 929 (2007)). A complaint must
17 allege sufficient facts to make a “claim to relief . . . plausible on its face.” *Id.*
18 (emphasis added). This plausibility standard asks for more than mere possibility; if
19 a complaint pleads facts “merely consistent with” a theory of liability, it falls short
20 of the “line between possibility and plausibility.” *Id.* (quoting *Twombly*, 550 U.S.
21 at 557). A motion to dismiss will also be granted where an affirmative defense or
22 other bar to relief is apparent from the facts alleged in the complaint. *See Groten v.*
23 *California*, 251 F.3d 844, 851 (9th Cir. 2001).

24 **B. Rule 8(a)(2) Standard**

25 Under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 8(a)(2), a pleading must contain a
26 short and plain statement of the claim showing that the pleader is entitled to relief.
27 Fed. R. Civ. P. 8(a)(2). The pleading standard Rule 8 announces does not require
28 detailed factual allegations, but it demands more than an unadorned, the-defendant-

1 unlawfully-harmed-me accusation. *Twombly*, 550 U.S. at 555 (citing *Papasan v.*
2 *Allain*, 478 U.S. 265, 286, 106 S. Ct. 2932, 92 L. Ed. 2d 209 (1986)).

3 **C. Rule 9(b) Standard**

4 Moreover, allegations of fraud and mistake in a complaint must be stated
5 with particularity. Fed. R. Civ. P. 9(b). In this context, “particularity” means a
6 plaintiff’s allegations must be specific enough to give the defendant notice of the
7 particular misconduct alleged so that the defendant can defend against the charge
8 and not just deny that it has done anything wrong. *Semegen v. Weidner*, 780 F.2d
9 727, 731 (9th Cir. 1985); *Wenger v. Lumisys, Inc.*, 2 F. Supp. 2d 1231, 1239 (N.D.
10 Cal. 1998). *See also Vess v. Ciba-Geigy Corp. USA*, 317 F.3d 1097, 1103-04 (9th
11 Cir. 2003) (“In some cases, the plaintiff may allege a unified course of fraudulent
12 conduct and rely entirely on that course of conduct as the basis of a claim. In that
13 event, the claim is said to be ‘grounded in fraud’ or to ‘sound in fraud,’ and the
14 pleading of that claim as a whole must satisfy the particularity requirement of Rule
15 9(b).”)

16 When a motion to dismiss is sustained, the court has determined the
17 complaint states facts insufficient to give rise to one or more enforceable legal
18 rights. *Allen v. City of Beverly Hills*, 911 F.2d 367, 373 (9th Cir. 1990). When a
19 complaint is sustained with leave to amend, the court has found a reasonable
20 possibility the defect can be cured by amendment. *Id.* Conversely, the court may
21 sustain a motion to dismiss without leave to amend if such an amendment would be
22 futile, and no set of facts can be proven under the amendment which would
23 constitute a valid and sufficient claim. *See Kendall v. Visa U.S.A., Inc.*, 518 F.3d
24 1042, 1051 (9th Cir. 2008); *Miller v. Rykoff-Sexton, Inc.*, 845 F.2d 209, 214 (9th
25 Cir. 1988).

26 **D. Res Judicata May Be Raised as an Affirmative Defense in a** 27 **Motion to Dismiss Under Rule 12(b)(6)**

1 A defendant may raise the affirmative defense of *res judicata* by motion to
 2 dismiss under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(6). *See, e.g. Holcombe v.*
 3 *Hosmer*, 477 F.3d 1094, 1096-97 (9th Cir. 2007); *Scott v. Kuhlmann*, 746 F.2d
 4 1377, 1378 (9th Cir. 1984) (*per curiam*) (“Ordinarily affirmative defenses may not
 5 be raised by motion to dismiss . . . but this is not true when, as here, the defense
 6 raises no issues of disputed fact”).

7 **III. STATEMENT OF FACTS**

8 **A. DISMISSAL OF PLAINTIFF’S STATE ACTION AND APPEAL**

9 Plaintiff filed his State Complaint on May 7, 2012, in the Los Angeles
 10 County Superior Court, Case Number BC 484101, *Saif Khorshed vs. Los Angeles*
 11 *World Airports*. (See State Compl.) Plaintiff asserted in the State Complaint that
 12 LAWA engaged in a pattern of retaliation in response to Plaintiff submitting a
 13 declaration in support of a co-employee who was also suing LAWA. (State Compl.
 14 ¶ 8; *see also* LAWA’s MSA.) The alleged adverse employment actions in
 15 Plaintiff’s State Action included, but were not limited to, prohibiting Plaintiff from
 16 going to the Central Utility Plant (“CUP”) while on medical leave in March 2011
 17 (State Compl. at 3:20-25); denying him access to his work computer (State Compl.
 18 at 3:26); denying him access to his former workplace (*Id.*); ignoring his request for
 19 certain documents (State Compl. at 4:6-7); wrongly changing his job duties (State
 20 Compl. at 4:16-25); reducing his pay rate by 5.5% (State Compl. at 4:25-26); and
 21 denying payment to Plaintiff’s physician (State Compl. at 4:1-3). Plaintiff alleged
 22 that because of LAWA’s conduct, he suffered physical and emotional injuries, as
 23 well as lost income. (State Compl. ¶¶ 14-16.)

24 On April 26, 2014, LAWA moved for Summary Adjudication as to
 25 Plaintiff’s remaining claim for retaliation. (See LAWA’s MSA.) LAWA put forth
 26 evidence establishing LAWA’s legitimate, non-retaliatory reasons for each of the
 27 adverse employment actions alleged by Plaintiff. On August 21, 2013, the Los
 28 Angeles Superior Court granted LAWA’s Motion because Plaintiff failed to present

1 sufficient evidence that the legitimate reasons LAWA provided for its actions were
 2 pretextual or untrue. (See Order Granting LAWA's MSA at 2:6-8.) An amended
 3 order was entered against Plaintiff in the Los Angeles Superior Court on December
 4 20, 2013. (See Am. Order Granting LAWA's MSA at 2:1-2.) Finally, the
 5 California Court of Appeal dismissed Plaintiff's appeal of the Judgment entered
 6 against him in the state court action. (See Order Dismissing Pl.'s Appeal.)

7 **B. PLAINTIFF'S NUMEROUS FEDERAL PLEADINGS TO DATE**

8 **1. Plaintiff's Original Complaint and Leave to Amend**

9 Taking his grievances to Federal court, Plaintiff filed his original Complaint
 10 in this Court on April 8, 2014. (See Complaint.) This original Complaint asserted
 11 approximately six causes of action: (1) violations of the Civil Rights Act of 1964,
 12 42 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1337, 1343, and 2401; (2) violations of the Americans with
 13 Disabilities Act; (3) violations of the Family Medical Leave Act; (4) violations of
 14 "Federal Labor Code § 553"; (5) violations of 18 U.S.C. § 245; and (6) contempt of
 15 court, obstruction of justice, and perjury. (Complaint ¶¶ 69-130.) Defendants filed
 16 a Motion to Dismiss Plaintiff's Complaint for failure to state a claim. The Court
 17 granted Defendants' Motion without oral argument, giving Plaintiff leave to amend,
 18 but with admonitions. (See June 3, 2014 Order at 5:12-20 (stating, *inter alia*, "If
 19 Plaintiff elects to file a First Amended Complaint it must . . . be complete in and of
 20 itself without reference to the original complaint or any other pleading, attachment,
 21 or document.").)

22 **2. Dismissal of Plaintiff's FAC And This Court's Explicit** 23 **Instructions Regarding Further Amended Pleadings**

24 On July 1, 2014, Plaintiff filed his FAC, which added LAWA as a defendant
 25 but otherwise resembled his original Complaint. The FAC caption read as follows:

26 1- Disability Harassment in Violation of the Americans with
 27 Disabilities Act of 1990 (as amended) ("ADAAA") (42 U.S.C.
 28 §12112(a)); 2. Disability Discrimination and Failure to Accommodate

1 Disability in Violation of the ADAAA (42 U.S.C. 12112(b)(5)(A)); 3.
 2 Retaliation in Violation of the ADAAA (42 U.S.C. §12203(a)(b)); 4.
 3 Retaliatory Reprimand in violation of VII of the Civil Rights Act of
 4 1964 (42 U.S.C. SEC 2000e-3); 5. Federally Protected Activities (18
 5 U.S.C. §245(b)(5)); 6. Conspiracy Against Civil Rights title (18 U.S.C.
 6 § 241); 7. Fair Labor Standards Act 29 CFR § 778.415 and § 207; 8.
 7 Crimes Against Justice: - Tampering with a Witness, Victim, or an
 8 Informant (18 U.S.C. §1512(b)(1) and (2)(A)(B)); - Obstruction of
 9 Proceedings before Departments, Agencies, and Committees (18
 10 U.S.C. §1505); - Retaliating against a Witness, Victim, or an
 11 Informant (18 U.S.C. §1513(b)(1)); - Frauds and Swindles (18 U.S.C.
 12 §1341); 9- Action for Neglect to Prevent Interference with Civil Rights
 13 (42 U.S.C. §1986) [sic]

14 (See FAC) (underlining in original). Thus, Plaintiff invoked the same statutes
 15 against Defendants as in his original Complaint, adding a conspiracy statute (18
 16 U.S.C. § 241) and substituting FLSA statutes for his earlier FMLA claim.³

17 The Court dismissed Plaintiff's FAC against the individual defendants
 18 without further leave to amend, and granted Plaintiff one final attempt to plead a
 19 legally cognizable claim against LAWA. (See August 28, 2014 Order at Part 1,
 20 2:7.) The Order stated:

21 If Plaintiff wishes to file a [SAC], Plaintiff will adhere to a 15-page
 22 limit in order to comply with Rule 8. The Court will closely scrutinize
 23 any claim that appears to relate to the time period and issues covered
 24 by the state action. Plaintiff is advised to be judicious and selective in
 25 determining the legal theory he wishes to pursue in pleading a claim
 26 against the employer. Plaintiff's [SAC] will be due by or before
 27 September 29 [2014]

28 (August 28, 2014 Order at 2:8-15) (emphases added).

³ Defense counsel filed two separate Motions to Dismiss Plaintiff's FAC on behalf of (1) LAWA and (2) Gina Marie Lindsey and Rodolfo F. Ruiz. Now, because Plaintiff's SAC fails to cure any of the substantive pleading defects previously identified by this Court, LAWA asserts many of its same arguments here.

1 Plaintiff filed his SAC on October 27, 2014, pursuant to the Court's granting
 2 of his request for extension. (*See* Court Order Re Pl.'s Extension Request, attached
 3 as **Ex. J** to the concurrently filed Req. for Judicial Notice.)

4 **3. Plaintiff's SAC Fails to Comply With This Court's Order**

5 Plaintiff's 25-page SAC exceeds the page limit imposed by this Court and
 6 fails to succinctly state facts or any cogent legal theory against LAWA. In fact,
 7 Plaintiff now cites the entire U.S. Constitution as a basis for his sixth case of action.
 8 (SAC at 23:22-24:9.) Otherwise, Plaintiff's legal theories remain unchanged from
 9 earlier pleadings and continue to reference criminal or otherwise inapplicable
 10 statutes. (*See, e.g.*, SAC at 5:1-2; 21:18.)

11 **4. Plaintiff's Related Federal Case**

12 Plaintiff is also suing Paula Adams, LAWA Human Resources Director, and
 13 Joseph Avrahamy, Plaintiff's State Action attorney, in a similar Federal District
 14 Court action. (*See* Pl.'s Compl. in *Saif Khorshed v. 1. LAWA Director of Human*
 15 *Resources Paula Adams, an Individual; 2. Josephy Y Avrahamy, Attorney at Law,*
 16 *an Individual; and Does 1 through 10, Inclusive*, Case No. CV14-3435-GW-JPRx,
 17 ("Second Federal Complaint"), filed on May 2, 2014, attached as **Ex. K** to the
 18 concurrently filed Req. for Judicial Notice.) Pursuant to Local Rule 83-1.3, Ms.
 19 Adams filed a Notice of Related Cases. (*See* Defs.' Notice of Related Cases,
 20 attached as **Ex. L** to the concurrently filed Req. for Judicial Notice.) Although
 21 Plaintiff previously tried adding LAWA as a defendant to this parallel Federal
 22 action, Plaintiff's most recent amendment to his Second Federal Complaint omits
 23 LAWA as a defendant.

24 **5. Persons Implicated in Plaintiff's Conspiracy Theory**

25 Plaintiff makes references in his SAC to wrongdoers such as "the
 26 perpetrators" (SAC at 9:25-27), "the legal firm" (SAC at 9:14), "the legal team"
 27 (SAC at 12:22), "the defense team," (SAC at 13:10), "the conspired lawyers" (SAC
 28 at 13:27) and a "Union 501 representative" (SAC at 14:5-6), without identifying

1 who those individuals or entities are. Like Plaintiff's earlier pleadings, the SAC is
 2 premised on an alleged conspiracy involving LAWA and non-LAWA entities. For
 3 example, Plaintiff lists "LAWA and non-LAWA personnel prospective witnesses
 4 such as Ms. Janet Hakney, Mr. Bobby Johnson, Ms. Veronica Rivera, Mr. Brian
 5 Pendleton, Ms. Adrianna Cuevas, Mr. Jorge Ruiz and others" (emphasis added).
 6 (SAC at 5:21-24.) In other instances, Plaintiff names LAWA and non-LAWA
 7 actors simultaneously, as in his statements regarding "LAWA and the legal team . .
 8 . inflicting, escalating punishment on the plaintiff..." (SAC at 12:22-23) and "the
 9 torture that the perpetrators and LAWA inflicted on me without mercy. And my
 10 right for a fair trial [sic]" (SAC at 5:10-11) (emphases added).⁴ Plaintiff's SAC
 11 remains hopelessly ambiguous as to which factual allegations refer to LAWA.

12 **6. "Adverse Employment Actions" Alleged Repeatedly**

13 Plaintiff's SAC broadly alleges "illegal revenge," "retaliatory acts" and
 14 "adverse employment actions" in connection with Plaintiff's activity as a witness.
 15 Numerous statements throughout Plaintiff's SAC suggest all of his instant claims
 16 are based on the same alleged retaliation that was the basis for his State Action,
 17 including the following:

- 18 • "the factual merit [of the SAC] is exactly the same [as Plaintiff's
 19 earlier pleadings]. (SAC at 3:26-27.)
- 20 • "LAWA inflicted intentional damages on the victims who either
 21 participated in protected activity or perceived EEOC activity."
 22 (SAC at 6:27-28.)
- 23 • "While the plaintiff was investigating the right violation grievance,
 24 the employer started to harass him by rejecting plaintiff's legal and
 25

26
 27 ⁴ Plaintiff additionally invokes conspiracy where he states "LAWA induced,
 28 authorized or financed the following retaliatory actions [followed by a list of
 allegations]" (SAC at 13:6-7) (emphasis added).

1 logic request for equal pay and to fill the vacancies in the power
2 plant [sic].” (SAC at 8:15-17.)

- 3 • “The fact is LAWA started to take illegal revenge from the plaintiff
4 in a very ugly frequent and intentional way. The discriminatory
5 harassment and the retaliation deterred the other employees from
6 participating in any protected activity [sic].” (SAC at 9:2-5.)
- 7 • “After 28 years of productive clean work history, participating in
8 protected activity and perceived EEOC activity cannot convert or
9 change the reality.” (SAC at 9:21-22.)
- 10 • “LAWA’s changes to the terms and conditions of my employment
11 are retaliatory and discriminatory actions.” (SAC at 11:7-8.)
- 12 • “The adverse employment actions were directly related to the
13 retaliation....” (SAC at 13:3-4.)
- 14 • “However, LAWA violated the plaintiff’s Civil Rights by imposing
15 retaliatory reprimand....” (SAC at 13:19-20.)
- 16 • “LAWA violated the Federal Provision to coerce/ intimidate each
17 and all LAWA’s employees from participating in protected activity
18 or perceive EEO activity [sic].” (SAC at 21:19-21.)
- 19 • “All the witnesses including plaintiff are suffering from ugly
20 discriminatory harassment of defendant LAWA for participating in
21 protected activity [sic].” (SAC at 24:19-21.)

22 Further, Plaintiff raised most, if not all, of his alleged “adverse employment
23 actions” in his adjudicated State Action. For example, Plaintiff’s pleadings
24 repeatedly allege one or more conspirators: (1) “[broke] into [P]laintiff’s office on
25 February 2012...[and i]llegally seized [P]laintiff’s assigned computer (SAC ¶
26 17(a)-(b); *see* State Compl. at 3:25-28); (2) denied Plaintiff access to internal
27 investigation documents (SAC at 11:11; *see* State Compl. at 4:4-9); (3) “[i]llegally
28 seized Plaintiff’s assigned car” (SAC ¶ 14(c)); (4) removed Plaintiff as Senior

1 Manager over the Central Utility Plant at LAX Airport (*see, e.g.*, SAC at 11:5-11;
 2 12:27-13:2; *see* State Compl. at 4:16-25); (5) allegedly violated Plaintiff's right for
 3 equal wage (SAC at 11:9; *see* State Compl. ¶ 18); (6) allegedly reduced Plaintiff's
 4 wage (*see, e.g.*, SAC at 11:9-11; *see* State Compl. at 4:25-26); (7) intimidated and
 5 coerced persons to commit perjury and provide false confessions (*see, e.g.*, SAC ¶
 6 28; *see* State Compl. at 4:9-12); (8) purportedly rejected Plaintiff's injured on duty
 7 ("IOD") (SAC at 11:1-4; 18:26-27; *see* State Compl. at 5:1-4); and (9) the "defense
 8 team" interfered with Skelly (*See, e.g.*, SAC at 13:14).⁵

9 **IV. PLAINTIFF'S CAUSES OF ACTION ARE BARRED UNDER THE**
 10 **DOCTRINE OF RES JUDICATA BECAUSE THEY WERE OR**
 11 **COULD HAVE BEEN BROUGHT IN PLAINTIFF'S EARLIER**
 12 **STATE COURT ACTION, WHICH WAS DISMISSED**

13 **A. FEDERAL COURTS APPLY CALIFORNIA LAW IN**
 14 **DETERMINING THE PRECLUSIVE EFFECT OF A STATE**
 15 **COURT JUDGEMNT**

16 Federal courts must afford full faith and credit to state court judgments. 28
 17 U.S.C. § 1738; *San Remo Hotel, L.P. v. City and Cnty. of San Francisco*, 545 U.S.
 18 323, 336 (2005). By extension, federal courts look to state law to determine the
 19 preclusive effect of a state court judgment. *See, e.g., Palomar Mobilehome Park*
 20 *Ass'n v. San Marcos*, 989 F.2d 362, 363 (9th Cir. Cal. 1993) (applying California
 21 law in holding that plaintiff's federal constitutional issues had been fully litigated in
 22 prior state court proceedings); *see also Manufactured Home Cmtys. Inc. v. City of*
 23 *San Jose ("MHC")*, 420 F.3d 1022, 1031 (9th Cir. 2005) (holding that plaintiff's
 24 claims all related to a single city ordinance and the city's application of that
 25 ordinance to plaintiff's petition for a rent increase); *Maldonado v. Harris*, 370 F.3d

26 ⁵ The SAC repeatedly alleges "thirty-four adverse employment actions." (*See, e.g.*,
 27 SAC at 9:24-25; 12:2-3.) But the SAC provides no numbering, and defense
 28 counsel is unable to construe this many alleged adverse employment actions from
 the face of the SAC, especially given the convoluted nature and repetitiveness of
 the SAC's factual allegations.

945, 952 (9th Cir. 2004) (discussing claim preclusion in the context of California common law and the California Code of Civil Procedure compulsory cross-complaint rule). Thus, in ruling on the present motion to dismiss, the Court should apply the California standard for the doctrine of *res judicata*.

1. California’s *res judicata* doctrine is based on a “primary rights” theory.

California law holds that a final judgment of a state court “precludes further proceedings if they are based on the same cause of action.” *Maldonado v. Harris*, 370 F.3d 945, 952 (9th Cir. 2004). More specifically, California’s *res judicata* standard precludes a plaintiff from litigating a claim if: (1) the claim relates to the same “primary right” as a claim in a prior action; (2) the prior judgment was final and on the merits; and (3) the plaintiff was a party or in privity with a party to the prior action. *See, e.g., City of Martinez v. Texaco Trading & Transp., Inc.*, 353 F.3d 758, 762 (9th Cir. 2003) (citations omitted); *Trujillo v. County of Santa Clara*, 775 F.2d 1359, 1366 (9th Cir. 1985) (citations omitted). Claims are “identical” if they involve the same “primary right.” *Acuna v. Regents of Univ. of Cal.*, 56 Cal. App. 4th 639 (1997).⁶

California courts offer further explanation for the meaning of “primary rights,” including the following by the California Supreme Court:

As far as its content is concerned, the primary right is simply the plaintiff’s right to be free from the particular injury suffered. It must therefore be distinguished from the legal theory on which liability for that injury is premised: “Even where there are multiple legal theories upon which recovery

⁶ There is no dispute that the second and third elements of this test are met in the case at bar. The Los Angeles Superior Court granted LAWA’s dispositive Motion for Summary Adjudication against Plaintiff on August 21, 2013, which ended his case; and the California Court of Appeals dismissed Plaintiff’s appeal. (*See* Order Granting LAWA’s MSA; Am. Order Granting LAWA’s MSA; and Order Dismissing Appeal.) LAWA was the named defendant in the State Action, making the parties identical. (*See* State Compl.) Thus, both the second and third elements are satisfied.

might be predicated, one injury gives rise to only one claim for relief.” The primary right must also be distinguished from the *remedy* sought: “The violation of one primary right constitutes a single cause of action, though it may entitle the injured party to many forms of relief, and the relief is not to be confounded with the cause of action, one not being determinative of the other.”

Mycogen Corp. v. Monsanto Co., 28 Cal. 4th 888 (2002) (citations omitted).

The plaintiff’s injury, and not his or her theory of recovery, is the essence of a “primary right.” *See, e.g., City of Martinez v. Texaco Trading & Transp., Inc.*, 353 F.3d 758, 762 (9th Cir. 2003) (stating that “to determine if the issues in both actions involve the same primary right, we look to the rights sought to be vindicated and, specifically, to the claimed harm. The fact that various theories of recovery are asserted and various remedies are requested does not necessarily create different primary rights”).

2. Claims that “could have been brought” are likewise barred.

A litigant cannot avoid the preclusive effect of *res judicata* by failing explicitly to plead federal constitutional violations in a prior state action. While every litigant deserves his or her day in court, few deserve two. Thus, Palomar’s [plaintiff’s] failure specifically to plead federal constitutional violations in the state court complaint does not affect the application of *res judicata* to this case.

Palomar Mobilehome Park Ass’n v. San Marcos, 989 F.2d 362, 363 (9th Cir. 1993) (citations omitted). “It is well settled that *res judicata* bars subsequent actions on all grounds for recovery that could have been asserted, whether they were or not.” *Id.* at 365 (9th Cir. 1993). *See also Warga v. Cooper* 44 Cal.App.4th 371, 377 (1996) (holding the *res judicata* scope of a prior judgment includes not only issues “actually raised by proper pleadings and treated as an issue in the cause,” but also matters that *could have been raised*, but were not expressly pleaded or argued). “The reason for this is manifest. A party cannot by negligence or design withhold issues and litigate them in consecutive actions.” *Id.* at 378. *See also Thomas v. Hous. Auth. of L.A.*, 2005 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 46427 (C.D. Cal. June 2, 2005) at 31-

32 (applying this precedent in a discrimination and failure to accommodate in an unlawful detainer action).

B. PLAINTIFF’S SAC INVOKES THE SAME “PRIMARY RIGHTS” AS HIS STATE ACTION AND HIS CLAIMS COULD HAVE BEEN BROUGHT IN HIS STATE COURT ACTION.

Plaintiff effectively concedes his SAC is identical to his State Action by attributing the “adverse employment actions” alleged throughout the SAC to his activity as a witness. (*See, e.g.*, SAC at 3:26-27; 6:27-28; 8:15-17; 9:2-5; 9:21-22; 11:7-8; 13:3-4; 13:19-20; 21:19-21; 24:19-21; *see also* **Part III.B.5.**) This mirrors Plaintiff’s State Action, which alleged: “As a result of assisting Mr. Ndjongo [another LAWA employee] and submitting a declaration in the case of Jean Ndjongo v. LAWA, Plaintiff experienced retaliatory acts by LAWA.” (emphasis added). (*See* State Compl., ¶ 9.)

In *Mycogen Corp. v. Monsanto Co.*, the California Supreme Court elucidated “primary rights” when it denied a plaintiff’s claim for monetary damages after plaintiff had earlier brought suit under the California Declaratory Judgment Act and prevailed. 28 Cal. 4th 888, 894 (2002). The court affirmed that the second suit was barred under the doctrine of *res judicata* because it arose from the “same injury,” which in that case was a breach of a licensing agreement. *Id.* at 905. Notably, the court rejected plaintiff’s “continuing breach” theory, finding that both suits were based on the same breach of a single covenant.” *Id.* at 895-909. *See also Ellis v. SmithKline Beecham Corp.*, 363 F. App’x 481, 482 (9th Cir. 2010) (holding dismissal of a *pro se* employee’s action was proper because the earlier action between the parties resulted in a final judgment on the merits concerning claims arising out of the employment relationship).

As in *Mycogen*, Plaintiff’s SAC alleges the same wrongs and injuries that formed the basis of Plaintiff’s State Complaint: numerous so-called “adverse employment actions” linked to Plaintiff’s role as a witness. (*See, e.g.*, SAC at 3:26-

27; 6:27-28; 8:15-17; 9:2-5; 9:21-22; 11:7-8; 13:3-4; 13:19-20; 21:19-21; 24:19-21; State Compl., ¶¶8-9). Although Plaintiff's SAC now attempts to invoke conspiracy and assert causes of action under the ADA and FLSA, the factual allegations comprising Plaintiff's SAC ultimately fail to plead anything beyond the "adverse employment actions" alleged in his State Action." (*See, e.g., Part III.B.5.*) Because Plaintiff alleges identical "adverse" actions in both pleadings, Plaintiff's purported "injuries" in both pleadings are identical as well. Plaintiff's State Action alleges that Plaintiff suffered physical and emotional injuries, as well as lost income (*see, e.g., State Compl., ¶¶ 14-16*); and Plaintiff's SAC alleges the same (*see, e.g., SAC, 22:9-10; 22:21-21; 23:5-6; 24:8-9*).

In the State Action, the Los Angeles Superior Court considered the same primary rights alleged to have been violated in the instant SAC, and ruled on those claims. (*See Order Granting LAWA's MSA at 2:6-8; Am. Order Granting LAWA's MSA at 2:1-2.*) As such, Plaintiff's failure to plead specific federal causes of action in his State Complaint does not affect the application of *res judicata* in the case at bar. Plaintiff's attempts to re-plead allegations pertaining to LAWA's retaliation in the SAC are therefore barred under the doctrine of *res judicata*, and should be dismissed.

V. THE SAC SHOULD BE DISMISSED UNDER FEDERAL RULE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE 12(B)(6) BECAUSE IT FAILS TO STATE A CLAIM UPON WHICH RELIEF CAN BE GRANTED

A. PLAINTIFF'S UNENUMERATED CLAIMS OF FRAUD AND CONSPIRACY BETWEEN AND/OR AMONG LAWA, ATTORNEYS, AND OTHER ALLEGED CONSPIRATORS MUST FAIL BECAUSE PLAINTIFF DOES NOT PLEAD FACTS WITH SUFFICIENT PARTICULARITY

"[M]ere allegations of fraud, corruption or conspiracy, averments to conditions of mind, or referrals to plans and schemes are too conclusional to satisfy the particularity requirement, no matter how many times such accusations are

1 repeated.” *Hayduk v. Lanna*, 775 F.2d 441, 444 (1st Cir. 1985). Statements
 2 concerning “the time, place and nature of the alleged fraudulent activities are
 3 sufficient, [while] mere conclusory allegations of fraud are insufficient.” *Moore v.*
 4 *Kayport Package Express, Inc.*, 885 F.2d 531, 540 (9th Cir. 1989). The
 5 particularity requirement stands even when fraud is not a necessary element of the
 6 claim. *See Vess v. Ciba-Geigy Corp. USA*, 317 F.3d 1097, 1103-04 (9th Cir. 2003)
 7 (“In some cases, the plaintiff may allege a unified course of fraudulent conduct and
 8 rely entirely on that course of conduct as the basis of a claim. In that event, the
 9 claim is said to be ‘grounded in fraud’ or to ‘sound in fraud,’ and the pleading of
 10 that claim as a whole must satisfy the particularity requirement of Rule 9(b).”); *see*
 11 *also Hill v. Opus Corp.*, 841 F. Supp. 2d 1070, 1088 (C.D. Cal. 2011) (discussing
 12 Rule 9(b)’s heightened pleading requirements).

13 Here, the underlying theme of Plaintiff’s SAC is a sweeping conspiracy
 14 among various “perpetrators” to carry out retaliatory actions in response to
 15 Plaintiff’s activity as a witness. (*See, e.g.*, SAC at 5:10-11; 9:25-27.) Meanwhile,
 16 Plaintiff’s SAC intermittently refers to “false accusations” and “false confession,”
 17 but never explains what these are. (*See, e.g.*, SAC at 15:13; 20:15.) As discussed
 18 in **Part III.B.5**, *supra*, the SAC often refers to alleged wrongdoers and perpetrators
 19 interchangeably, without clearly stating which allegations refer to LAWA and
 20 which refer to non-LAWA attorneys and/or various other alleged unnamed
 21 “perpetrators.” (*See, e.g.*, SAC at 9:25-27; 9:14; 12:22; 13:10; 13:27; 14:5-6.)
 22 Further, Plaintiff’s SAC often alludes to LAWA’s “induc[ing], authorize[ing]
 23 and/or finance[ing] retaliatory actions, but provides no factual details to support the
 24 alleged involvement. (*See, e.g.*, SAC at 13:6-7.) Thus, because these conspiracy
 25 allegations are governed by the pleading standards of Federal Rule of Civil
 26 Procedure Rule 8, and the heightened pleading standards of Rule 9(b), Plaintiff’s
 27 SAC must fail. Additionally, Plaintiff’s SAC fails to state a claim against LAWA
 28 under any of its enumerated causes of action.

B. PLAINTIFF FAILS TO STATE SUFFICIENT FACTS TO SUPPORT HIS FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION AGAINST LAWA FOR VIOLATION OF 18 U.S.C. § 245(b)(5)

Plaintiff's first cause of action alleges LAWA violated "Federally Protected Activities, 18 U.S.C. § 245(b)(5)." (SAC 21:18.) This statute carries a penalty of fine or imprisonment and does not confer a private cause of action. 18 U.S.C. § 245.

C. PLAINTIFF FAILS TO STATE SUFFICIENT FACTS TO SUPPORT HIS SECOND, THIRD, AND FIFTH CAUSES OF ACTION AGAINST LAWA FOR VIOLATIONS OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

Plaintiff's SAC fails to plead the elements of an ADA claim, which require Plaintiff to establish he: (1) is an "employee" (not an independent contractor); (2) has a "disability"; (3) is a "qualified individual" capable of performing the essential functions of the job either with or without reasonable accommodation; and (4) was unlawfully discriminated against because of his disability. *Kennedy v. Applause, Inc.*, 90 F.3d 1477, 1481 (9th Cir. 1996).

Plaintiff's second cause of action refers to "LAWA refus[al] to abide by the Deputy City Attorney's rulings to accommodate the plaintiff's right knee disability." (SAC at 22:7-8.) Plaintiff's third cause of action states "Defendant LAWA intentionally involved in violating the federal law to inflict damages on the plaintiff, coercing him to follow unethical and illegal instructions." (SAC at 22:18-19.) Plaintiff's fifth cause of action states "LAWA, intentionally and repeatedly got involved in the four prohibited actions in the provision to retaliate and discriminate against [Plaintiff] [sic]." (SAC at 23:13-15.)

Plaintiff's SAC alleges no facts to suggest LAWA retaliated or discriminated against him because of a disability. (SAC ¶¶ 31-32; ¶ 34.) In fact, the SAC repeatedly attributes all "adverse employment actions" to Plaintiff's witness activity. (*See, e.g.*, SAC at 3:26-27; 6:27-28; 8:15-17; 9:2-5; 9:21-22; 11:7-8; 13:3-

4; 13:19-20; 18:6-27; 21:19-21; 24:19-21.) A motion to dismiss should be granted where an affirmative defense or other bar to relief is apparent from the facts alleged in the complaint. *See Groten v. California*, 251 F.3d 844, 851 (9th Cir. 2001). Moreover, any alleged adverse actions occurring in 2011 would have preceded, and thus be barred by the preclusive effect of Plaintiff's State Action adjudication in 2013. (*See, e.g.*, SAC at 18:15-27.) Thus, to the extent any retaliation claims can be construed from these causes of action, such claims would again be barred under the doctrine of *res judicata*. (*See Part IV, supra.*)

D. PLAINTIFF FAILS TO STATE SUFFICIENT FACTS TO SUPPORT HIS FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION AGAINST LAWYER UNDER THE FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT

Plaintiff's fourth cause of action invokes "the Fair Labor Standards Act 29 CFR § 778.415 and § 207." (FAC at 48:4.) The FLSA mandates employees will be compensated at one and one-half times their regular rate of pay for all hours worked over forty in a work week. 29 U.S.C. § 207(a)(1). A cause of action for unpaid overtime under the FLSA ordinarily must be commenced within two years after the cause of action accrues; however, the statute of limitations is extended to three years for a cause of action that arises out of a "willful violation." 29. U.S.C. § 255(a). To show a willful violation, the employee must prove "the employer either knew or showed reckless disregard for the matter of whether its conduct was prohibited by the statute." *McLaughlin v. Richland Shoe Co.*, 486 U.S. 128, 133, 108 S. Ct. 1677, 1681, 100 L. Ed. 2d 115 (1988).

Plaintiff fails to allege any dates to plead timeliness under the FLSA, though it refers generally to Plaintiff working "in excess of 80 hours per week." (SAC at 23:2.) Elsewhere in his SAC, Plaintiff refers to working "excessive crazy hours," but fails to plead any corresponding dates. (SAC at 8:19-20.) In fact, Plaintiff's limited reference to dates throughout his SAC refer to his being placed on administrative leave from September 26, 2013 to January 7, 2014, during which

1 time Plaintiff could not have been working at all. (*See, e.g.*, SAC at 12:9-10.)
 2 Thus, the timeliness of Plaintiff's claim is undermined by the face of his pleading,
 3 and Plaintiff fails to plead any facts to suggest willfulness. *See, e.g., McLaughlin*,
 4 486 U.S. 128, 135, 108 S. Ct. 1677, 1682, 100 L. Ed. 2d 115 (1988) (upholding the
 5 two-year FLSA statute of limitations and requirements for a showing of
 6 willfulness). In fact, Plaintiff's allegations refer to various non-LAWA persons and
 7 entities performing many different acts allegedly relating to his complaints
 8 regarding pay and excessive hours. (*See generally* **Part III.B.5.**) Thus, it is not
 9 clear to what or to whom Plaintiff is referring with respect to any FLSA-related
 10 allegations, and the Court should again dismiss Plaintiff's FLSA claim against
 11 LAWA.

12 **E. PLAINTIFF FAILS TO STATE SUFFICIENT FACTS TO**
 13 **SUPPORT HIS SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION AGAINST LAWA**
 14 **FOR VIOLATING THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION**
 15 **AND A "HUMAN RIGHTS RULING"**

16 Plaintiff's sixth cause of action refers generally to "fair trial in both Civil and
 17 administrative procedures," but fails to cite to any specific law that has been
 18 violated. (SAC at 23:22-24:9.) Instead, Plaintiff cites to the entire United States
 19 Constitution. (*See, e.g.*, SAC at 23:23.)

20 A document filed *pro se* is "to be liberally construed," and "a *pro*
 21 *se* complaint, however inartfully pleaded, must be held to less stringent standards
 22 than formal pleadings drafted by lawyers." *Erickson v. Pardus*, 551 U.S. 89, 94,
 23 127 S. Ct. 2197, 167 L. Ed. 2d 1081 (2007). However, "a liberal interpretation of a
 24 [pro se] civil rights complaint may not supply essential elements of the claim that
 25 were not initially pleaded. Vague and conclusory allegations of official
 26 participation in civil rights violations are not sufficient to withstand a motion to
 27 dismiss." *Pena v. Gardner*, 976 F.2d 469, 471 (9th Cir. 1992) (internal citations and
 28 quotations omitted). It is impossible to discern what Plaintiff is alleging by citing

1 the entire Constitution. Thus, the Court should grant the motion to dismiss this
2 cause of action.

3 **VI. PLAINTIFF VIOLATED SEVERAL COURT ADMONITIONS**

4 Plaintiff's 25-page SAC exceeds the 15-page limit set by the Court. (*See*
5 August 14, 2014 Order at 2:9.) Accordingly, LAWA respectfully requests the
6 Court disregard the SAC's pleadings beyond page 15.

7 Notwithstanding its excess verbiage, Plaintiff's SAC still fails to cure the
8 substantive defects in his two earlier pleadings and should be dismissed for the
9 same reasons previously set forth by this Court. (*See* June 3, 2014 Order at 3-5;
10 August 28, 2014 Order at Part 1.) The only identifiable change in the SAC is an
11 allegation of "torture" brought under the entire U.S. Constitution. (*See, e.g.,* SAC
12 at 5:10-11; 23:22-23:9) This makes Plaintiff's legal theories against LAWA less,
13 not more, "judicious and selective." (August 28, 2014 Order at 2:11.)

14 Additionally, the SAC violates other applicable rules. Local Rule 15-2 states
15 that every amended pleading "shall be complete including exhibits" and "shall not
16 refer to the prior, superseded pleading." L.R. 15-2. The SAC violates this rule by
17 referring to and/or addressing Plaintiff's prior pleadings, LAWA's prior responsive
18 pleadings, Plaintiff's parallel action in Federal District Court, and this Court's prior
19 orders. (*See, e.g.,* SAC at 3:24-26; 4:15; 4:21-22; 4:25.) Additionally, Plaintiff
20 appears to be under the impression he can amend his pleadings indefinitely. For
21 example, Plaintiff asks the Court to subpoena certain individuals as a supplement to
22 his pleadings. (*See, e.g.,* SAC at 5:13-14; 5:18-24; 9:25-27; 15:19-21.)

23 In sum, Plaintiff is repeatedly re-filing the same conclusory allegations from
24 his State Action without any regard for Court Orders, Local Rules, or the Federal
25 Rules of Civil Procedure (particularly Rule 8). Plaintiff's pleadings are cumulative,
26 duplicative, burdensome, and harassing. LAWA respectfully asks the Court to
27 dismiss Plaintiff's SAC without further leave to amend.

1 **VII. CONCLUSION**

2 Plaintiff has already had his day in the Los Angeles Superior Court, and the
3 great majority, if not all, of the allegations in the SAC should be barred under the
4 doctrine of *res judicata*. To the extent anything is left, Plaintiff fails to state a
5 claim. For the foregoing reasons, LAWA respectfully requests the Court dismiss
6 Plaintiff's SAC in its entirety, without any further leave to amend, pursuant to
7 Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(6).

8
9 Dated: November 12, 2014

VANDERFORD & RUIZ, LLP

10
11 By: /s/ Kristina R. Sherry
12 Ty S. Vanderford
13 Rodolfo F. Ruiz
14 Kristina R. Sherry
15 Attorneys for Defendant LOS ANGELES
16 WORLD AIRPORTS
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PROOF OF SERVICE

Saif Khorshed v. Gina Marie Lindsey, et al-USDC Case No.: CV14-2655 MRW

I am a citizen of the United States and employed in Los Angeles County, California. I am over the age of eighteen years and not a party to the within-entitled action. My business address is 221 E. Walnut Street, Suite 106, Pasadena, CA 91101. On November 12, 2014, I served a copy of the within document(s) entitled:

**DEFENDANT LOS ANGELES WORLD AIRPORTS' NOTICE OF
MOTION AND MOTION TO DISMISS PLAINTIFF SAIF
KHORSHED'S SECOND AMENDED COMPLAINT;
MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES IN SUPPORT
THEREOF**

☒ by placing the document(s) listed above in a sealed envelope with postage thereon fully prepaid, in the United States mail at Pasadena, California addressed as set forth below.

Saif Khorshed, *In Pro Per*
750 South Spaulding Avenue, #113
Los Angeles, CA 90036
T: (323) 938-5888

I am readily familiar with the firm's practice of collection and processing correspondence for mailing. Under that practice it would be deposited with the U.S. Postal Service on that same day with postage thereon fully prepaid in the ordinary course of business. I am aware that on motion of the party served, service is presumed invalid if postal cancellation date or postage meter date is more than one day after date of deposit for mailing in affidavit.

I declare that I am employed in the office of a member of the bar of this Court at whose direction the service was made. Executed on November 12, 2014, at Pasadena, California.

/s/ Kristina R. Sherry
Kristina R. Sherry